

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Cover Memorandum accompanying the March 1, 2006 filing of a Adoption Rule-Final Notice by the Division of Family and Children's Services issuing new Family Team Meeting policy for its policy manual.

1. Proposed Rule:

In keeping with the Department of Family and Children's Services' Family Centered Practice, Family Team Meetings shall be held within the first thirty days of custody.

Current Rule:

In keeping with the Department of Family and Children's Services' Family Centered Practice, Family Group Conferences shall be held within the first thirty days of custody.

Proposed Rule:

FAMILY CENTERED CONCURRENT PERMANENCY PLANNING
INVOLVES:

- Family Team Meetings/Kinship Assessment

Current Rule:

FAMILY CENTERED CONCURRENT PERMANENCY PLANNING
INVOLVES:

- Family Group Conferences/Kinship Assessment

Proposed Rule:

SERVICES TO HELP FACILITATE REUNIFICATION ARE:

- Family team meeting/concurrent planning

Current Rule:

SERVICES TO HELP FACILITATE REUNIFICATION ARE

- Family group conference/concurrent planning

2. Proposed Rule:

Prevention of Neglect/Abuse of Children

Activities include:

On all cases an Initial Family Team Meeting shall be completed within thirty calendar days from the opening of the case.

Current Rule:

None

3. Proposed Rule:

USE OF THE ISP/SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH PARENTS

On all cases an Initial Family Team Meeting and Individual Service Plan (ISP) shall be completed within thirty (30) calendar days from the opening of the case.

Ongoing Family Team Meetings shall be convened, at a minimum, every time the ISP is updated.

Current Rule:

USE OF THE ISP/SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH PARENTS

There must be a completed ISP for parents in the case within 30 days of the time reunification becomes the permanent plan.

4. Proposed Rule:

On all cases an Initial Family Team Meeting and Individual Service Plan (ISP) shall be completed within thirty (30) calendar days from the opening of the case. The case is considered opened when the Area Social Work Supervisor (ASWS) makes the decision in MACWIS for continuing services. The ASWS should make a decision within five (5) calendar days of the worker's recommendation for continuing services.

Ongoing Family Team Meetings shall be convened, at a minimum, every time the ISP is updated. Refer to Volume IV, Sections B and D for time frames for the ISP completion. (See Practice Guide for examples of other times Family Team Meetings would be appropriate.)

A Child's Individual Service Plan (ISP) shall be completed within 30 calendar days of custody or court ordered supervision.

Definition of Family Team Meeting

Any face to face meeting with one or more family members for the purpose of assessment and case planning. A Family Team

Meeting involves working closely with the family to identify family members, extended family, and supportive persons the family wants to engage in the assessment and case planning process. The family members should be brought in as early as possible and actively engaged throughout the life of the case in the decision making process.

Current Rule:

In keeping with the Department of Family and Children's Services' Family Centered Practice, Family Group Conference meetings shall be held within the first thirty days of custody in order to make appropriate plans for the child. The parents shall be given the opportunity to decide who will be part of the Group.

Rita C. Graham, Social Worker Advanced/Policy Lead
March 1, 2006

FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

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Ongoing Family Team Meetings shall be convened, at a minimum, every time the ISP is updated. Refer to Volume IV, Sections B and D for time frames for the ISP completion. (See Practice Guide for examples of other times Family Team Meetings would be appropriate.)

A Child's Individual Service Plan (ISP) shall be completed within 30 calendar days of custody or court ordered supervision.

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Best Practice Tip

It is strongly suggested that the DFCS worker should hold a Family Team Meeting, when possible, prior to removal of the child/ren. If a worker holds a Family Team Meeting during the Safety Assessment/Investigation, it is possible that suitable family members can be identified who will help DFCS make the best safety plan for the child/ren.

Legal Base

Federal: 42 USC Sections 622 and 675
45 CFR Parts 1355-1357

State: Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 43-15-13